

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-12 DPW-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 AID-20 RSR-01 /116 W

----- 053657

R 140920 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1642

INFO AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 8466

EO 11653: GDS

TAGS: PINT VS

SUBJ: MRS NGO BA THANH RECEIVES VISITORS, CONTINUES ON HUNGER STRIKE

REF: SAIGON 7821

1. MRS NGO BA THANH' S FAMILY REPORTED TO US MAY 12 THAT THEY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SEE HER TWICE AT THE SAIGON POLICE HOSPITAL SINCE MAY 4, THE DAY FOLLOWING AN EMBASSY OFFICER' S VISIT TO HER THERE. THEY REPORTED THAT SHE CONTINUES HER HUNGER STRIKE. HOWEVER, THEY SAID THAT SINCE RECEIVING VISITORS SHE HAS ENDED HER " THIRST STRIKE," WHICH SHE HAD BEGUN TO FORCE THE GVN TO ADMIT VISITORS. ( AS REPORTED REFTEL, SHE HAD TAKEN NO LIQUIDS IN THE FIVE DAYS PRIOR TO THE EMBASSY OFFICER' S VISIT.)

2. THE FAMILY' S ACCOUNT OF MRS THANH' S GENERAL CONDITON JIBES WITH THAT REPORTED REFTEL.

3. THE FAMILY ADDED THAT SHE IS NO LONGER ABLE TO TAKE FLUIDS INTRAVENOUSLY, AS MALNUTRITION HAS ADVANCED SUFFICIENTLY THAT  
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HER VEINS HAVE COLLAPSED AND THE DOCTORS CAN NO LONGER FIND VEINS SUITABLE FOR CONTINUED IV' S. THEY REPORT THAT POLICE HOSPITAL PHYSICIANS ARE USING RECTAL ALIMENTATION PROCEDURES TO GIVE HER SODIUM AND SUGAR FOR NOURISHMENT AND TO TREAT HER ADVANCED STATE OF DEHYDRATION. ( COMMENT: AN EMBASSY PHISICIAN INFORMS US THAT VENOUS COLLAPSE IS COMMON IN CASES OF MALNUTRITION AND NOTE THAT RECTAL ALIMENTATION TECHNIQUES ARE NOT UNCOMMONLY USED IN PEDIATRICS TO TREAT CHILDREN FOR SERIOUS MALNUTRITION AND DEHYDRATION.)

4. MRS THANH' S HUNGER STRIKE HAS CAUGHT THE ATTENTION OF DRV MEDIA. NHAN DAN PUBLISHED A NEWS COMMENT ON IT AND VNA CARRIED IT IN ENGLISH MAY 10 ( TEXT REPORTED FBIS B-102025). THE ARTICLE OBSERVED THAT HER HUNGER STRIKE, WHICH IT SAID HAD BEEN GOING ON FOR A MONTH, WAS A " PROTEST AGAINST NGUYEN VAN THIEU' S CLAIM THAT " THERE ARE NO POLITICAL PRISONERS IN SOUTH VIETNAM." THE REPORT CONTINUED THAT " SHE SAID SHE WOULD CONTINUE THE STRIKE TILL SHE WOULD BE UNCONDITIONALLY SET FREE," AND CONCLUDED BY " FIRMLY DEMANDING" THAT " THE SAIGON ADMINISTRATION RELEASE MME. NGO BA THANH IMMEDIATELY AND RETURN ALL THE MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL STILL DETAINED BY IT." WHITEHOUSE

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NMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a  
\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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